

Rural District Council  
of Cheltenham

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

# 1938

# **CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

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### **Medical Officer of Health :**

**STEPHEN KNIGHT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.**  
Whole time, combined districts.

### **Sanitary Inspector :**

**E. H. ROSSER, Certified Sanitary Inspector,**  
Certified Inspector of Meats and Foods.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspectors :**

**L. GROGAN, Certified Sanitary Inspector.**  
**F. H. LEWIS, Certified Sanitary Inspector.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cheltenham  
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for 1938.

The vital statistics for the year are most encouraging and reflect the healthy state of the district.

A slight rise instead of fall in the Birth Rate was noted last year and this year there is again an increase recorded which is more marked in character. The birth rate for the district is now above the National rate instead of below it.

An exceptional feature is the very low infant mortality ; the figure being as low as 29 as against the National figure of 53. The infantile mortality rate is often referred to as an index for the healthiness or otherwise of a district.

The slum clearance housing programme is largely complete as will be seen from the figures in this report.

The procedure adopted by the Council in dealing with individual unfit houses has always been to serve with the time and place notice a short list of defects and information relating to the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. This course is now obligatory as a result of recent Regulations made by the Minister.

Routine inspections of the spring heads and at least bi-annual sampling of the Council's water supplies are carried out.

I am much indebted to the Members of the Council, Mr. Rosser and other members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

May, 1938.

# Cheltenham Rural District Council

## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population, (mid. 1938)	.. .. .	15,150
Population (Census 1931)	.. .. .	15,835
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	.. .. .	5,145
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£88,382
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£350
Social Conditions: The people in the district are engaged mainly in agriculture, market gardening, fruit growing and associated occupations.		

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total	Males.	Females.
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate .. .. .	238	134	104
	{ Illegitimate .. .. .	6	3	3
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 16.1.				
STILL BIRTHS	.. .. .	6	3	3
	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 24.			
DEATHS	.. .. .	201	97	104
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 13.3.				
<i>Comparability factor</i> .. .. . 0.79				
<i>Corrected Death Rate</i> (13.3 × 0.79) .. .. . 10.5				

#### Deaths from puerperal causes:

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	0	Nil.
No. 30. Other puerperal causes .. .. .	1	4.0
Total .. .. .	1	4.0

#### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .	29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	28
„ „ Measles (all ages) .. .. .	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .	0

#### Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for 1938 was 15,150, showing a slight increase of 20 over the previous year. This is the first time for many years that this estimate has shown an increase instead of a progressive decline; due to the migration of people, usually young persons, from the area.



For the past few years, the number of deaths practically balanced the number of births so that there was no natural increase in the population ; however, during 1938 there was an excess of 43 births over the deaths. This was not due to an abnormally low death rate but to an increase in the birth rate.

### **Birth Rate**

There were 242 live births compared with 212 during 1937, giving a birth rate of 16.1 for the district. This figure 16.1 compares very favourably with that of the country as a whole which is 15.1 ; although here again a slight increase in the national figure is recorded.

### **Death Rate**

The total number of deaths of persons ordinarily resident in this area was 201 compared with 211 the previous year. The death rate for the year was 13.3 but for purposes of comparison the recorded death rate of 13.3 should be multiplied by a Comparability Factor, which for this area is 0.79, to give a corrected death rate of 10.5.

The corrected death rate, 10.5, is the death rate which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the district been the same as the country as a whole.

Whilst the recorded death rate, 13.3, is greater than the national figure of 11.6 because of a greater proportion of elderly people in this district, the corrected death rate is only 10.5. The corrected death rate incorporates an exact adjustment for this age and sex distribution.

### **Infantile Mortality**

Only seven of the 244 children born died before reaching the age of one year. Thus the infantile mortality rate reached the remarkably low figure of 29 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with the national figure of 53.

The infantile mortality rate for this district is usually very much below the national rate but formerly the difference has not been so marked.

It is again noted that the majority of these deaths, five out of seven, took place in the neo-natal period or first month of life. The means by which wastage of life in this period can be prevented is by an increased use of the facilities for ante-natal care, for the death of the infant in this period is bound up with the death or illness of the mother.

The remaining two deaths were due to congenital diseases or deformities which were incompatible with any lengthy period of life.

### **Maternal Mortality**

One mother died from pulmonary tuberculosis within the prescribed period of childbirth.

**Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and  
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938**

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :—					
Live .. .. .	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	16.1
Still .. .. .	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.4
Deaths :—					
All Causes .. ..	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	13.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corrected 0.00	10.5 —
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Measles .. ..	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.00
Scarlet fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping cough .. ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria .. ..	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.14
Influenza .. ..	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.14
Notifications :—					
Smallpox .. ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever ..	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.20
Diphtheria .. ..	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.73
Enteric fever ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	—
Erysipelas .. ..	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.47
Pneumonia .. ..	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.30
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age .. .. .	53	57	51	57	29
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	0.00
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis. .	0.89	} Not available			Nil.
Others .. .. .	2.19				4.1
Total .. .. .	3.08				4.1
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis. .	0.86	} Not available			Nil.
Others .. .. .	2.11				4.0
Total .. .. .	2.97				4.0
Notifications :—					
Puerperal fever ..	} 14.42	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53 15.46	0.00
Puerperal pyrexia					4.00

The Registrar General's Short Table of the Causes of Death corrected for outward and inward transfers.

CAUSES.						NUMBER.		
						Males.	Females.	Total.
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
6.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	2	0	2
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..			..	2	3	5
10.	Other tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
11.	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
12.	G.P.I., Tabes, etc.	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
13.	Cancer	..	..	..	..	11	17	38
14.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	0	1	1
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	..	..	..	..	7	13	20
16.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	28	22	50
18.	Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
19.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	0	2	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
21.	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	0	1	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
24.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
26.	Other liver diseases	..	..	..	..	1	0	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	..	..	6	3	9
29.	Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
30.	Other puerperal diseases	..	..	..	..	0	1	1
31.	Congenital debility, prematurity and deformities	..	..	..	..	3	2	5
32.	Senility	..	..	..	..	8	13	21
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
34.	Other Violence	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
35.	Other defined diseases	..	..	..	..	5	7	12
36.	Illdefined or N.K.	..	..	..	..	2	0	2
TOTAL						97	104	201

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

#### 1.—(a) Laboratory Facilities

Under arrangements made by the Gloucestershire County Council, sputum, swabs, and other pathological material are examined at the Cheltenham General Hospital.

#### (b) Ambulance Facilities

##### (i) Infectious Cases

The ambulance is provided by the Delancey Isolation Hospital.



### (ii) Other Cases

The Council have an arrangement with the Cheltenham Ambulance Association to serve the whole of the area. The service is adequate.

### (c) Nursing in the Home

The whole area is covered by the District Nursing Associations.

### (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the following times and places :

Alderton (1st Wednesday)	.. .. .	2.30 p.m.
Prestbury (1st and 3rd Wednesday)	..	2.30 p.m.
Shurdington (1st and 3rd Wednesday)	..	2.30 p.m.
Winchcomb (2nd Wednesday)	.. ..	2.30 p.m.
Stanton (2nd Friday)	.. .. .	3 p.m.

Clinics are held at the Cheltenham General and Tewkesbury Hospitals for ophthalmic, orthopaedic and tuberculous cases.

### (e) Hospitals

(i) Cases other than Smallpox : The Delancey Isolation Hospital, Cheltenham.

(ii) Smallpox cases : Delancey Isolation Hospital for Smallpox at Longhill, Elmstone Hardwicke.

## SECTION C

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### (i) Water

A public inquiry was held into the Council's proposals for acquiring the Toddington Water Undertaking. This supply serves 115 dwelling houses and several commercial undertakings. If the Council owned this supply several of the existing public supplies such as those at Winchcomb, Alderton and Bishop's Cleeve could be linked up and water circuits introduced. All consumers would benefit since the pressure would be greater and the inconvenience caused by bursts from whatever cause would not be nearly so great, because the water would have an alternative route to those consumers beyond the burst. Moreover, in times of shortage the pooling of supplies would help to augment the yield from any failing source.

Existing mains were extended at :—

1. Shuthonger, Twynning	.. ..	1,100 yards.
2. Gotherington Road, Bishop's Cleeve	.. .. .	100 „
3. New Housing Estate, Winchcomb		250 „
4. New Housing Estate, Alderton		170 „



5,000 yards of existing main were relaid in Bishop's Cleeve and Woodmancote.

Thirty samples of water were taken and sent for analysis. Those relating to public supplies owned by the Council were satisfactory.

The sources of the piped public supplies owned by the Council are from springs. Periodic inspections of the land around the spring heads were made to detect any possible sources of contamination.

By arrangement with the County Council the district will be able to submit 100 samples of water and sewage for analysis every year.

There were 156 new connections with the public supply.

Acute shortage of water was experienced in the village of Birdlip in Cowley Parish during the months of August, September and October. Water was carted to the consumers during this period. It was found necessary to issue notices to users of the Birdlip supply advising them to boil the water before use.

A scheme to supply this village from a fresh source has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Owing to action taken by the Council a fresh source has been obtained for a private supply to a number of houses at Blackhedge, Leckhampton, enabling a wholesome water to be supplied.

### (ii) Drainage and Sewerage

The Alderton and Gretton sewerage and sewage disposal scheme was completed during the year. A loan for £7,800 was obtained to cover the cost of the scheme.

A public inquiry was held into the Council's proposals for sewerage and sewage disposal at Greet, Winchcomb.

A scheme is prepared for sewage disposal at Newtown, Toddington, but has not been approved by the Ministry of Health, pending a decision on the purchase of the Toddington Water Undertaking.

The need for a sewerage system at Gotherington, Kidnapper's Lane, Leckhampton, and Coberley was reviewed during the year.

The Prestbury disposal works are overloaded and various schemes for dealing with this situation are being investigated.

#### Extension of Sewer to Housing Sites :

Prestbury .. .. .	65 yards.
Winchcomb .. .. .	220 „
Gotherington Road, Bishop's Cleeve	203 „
Noverton Lane, Prestbury .. ..	200 „

## *Rivers and Streams*

Pollution occurs from the overworked Prestbury works. Improved drainage to a cider factory at Fiddington and to houses at The Leigh, Woodmancote, and Prestbury will stop pollution which was occurring in these parishes.

### (iii) Closet Accommodation

Seven privy vaults were converted into pail closets ; 57 closets of the earth type were converted into water closets.

### (iv) Public Cleansing

The Council have a service for the collection of refuse in Prestbury, Leckhampton, Woodmancote and Winchcomb. Private arrangements for collection are made at Southam and Shurdington.

A scheme for a collection throughout the district was considered but again deferred for a year. The increased use of tinned articles of all kinds makes it more and more difficult for the villager to dispose of house refuse in a hygienic manner in the absence of a system of refuse collection.

### (v) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a)	Inspections made .. .. .	149
(b)	Nuisances discovered or reported :	
	(1) Total .. .. .	34
	(2) Swine only .. .. .	4
(c)	Complaints received .. .. .	32
(d)	Informal or preliminary notices sent .. .. .	28
(e)	Statutory notices sent .. .. .	3
(f)	Nuisances abated .. .. .	26
(g)	Summonses issued .. .. .	0
(h)	Convictions obtained .. .. .	0

#### *(a) Shops and Offices :*

Number inspected .. ..	12
Number of inspections .. ..	35

Improvement of six sanitary conveniences was effected under the Shops Act, 1934.

#### *(b) Factories with Mechanical Power :*

Number inspected .. ..	10
Number of inspections .. ..	27

Seven certificates in respect of the means of escape in the case of fire were issued.

The provision of a wholesome water supply for the employees was effected at one factory.

(c) *Factories without Mechanical Power :*

Number inspected	..	..	42
Number of inspections	..	..	110

(d) *Bakehouses :*

Number inspected	..	..	9
Number of inspections	..	..	18

Notices were served in nine cases for lime-washing to be carried out.

(e) *Offensive Trades* .. .. None

(f) *Outworkers' Residences* .. .. None

(g) *Tents, Vans and Sheds :*

Number inspected	..	..	27
Number of inspections	..	..	40

Two encampments were declared clearance areas under the Housing Act. The Clearance Orders have been confirmed by the Minister of Health.

(h) *Canal Boats* .. .. None

(vi) **Camping Sites**

- |  |            |     |
|--|------------|-----|
| (1) Number of sites used for camping purposes during the year  | .. .. .. . | 6   |
| (2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 | .. .. .. . | 2   |
| (3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season                          | ..         | 500 |
| (4) A number of sites were in use for short periods not long enough for licences to be issued.                             |            |     |

At several sites the campers were found to be temporary workers engaged in fruit and vegetable picking. Although this class of camper is exempt from licensing provision of the Public Health Act, improvements were effected in the water supply and sanitary accommodation.

(vii) **Smoke Abatement**

No complaints were received and no action taken.

(viii) **Swimming Baths and Pools**

(i) Publicly owned :

The Winchcomb open-air pool was not used during the year.

(ii) Privately owned :

The villagers of Stanton have the privilege of using a private open-air bath free of charge. The water was found to be in a satisfactory condition.

(iii) Bathing takes place in the Rivers Severn and Avon.



### (ix) Eradication of Bed Bugs

	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of houses found to be infested ..	0	3
Number of houses disinfested .. ..	0	3

#### *Method of Disinfestation*

The houses are sprayed with insecticide ("Zaldecide") and afterwards fumigated with "Cimex." The work is carried out by the Council's staff.

*Method employed to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses*

The tenants are inspected before removal.

#### *Supervision and education of tenants to prevent infestation*

Regular routine inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

### (x) Schools

There are several cases where schools are dependent on pumps for water supply although a piped supply is readily available. Similarly, advantage is not always taken of a nearby sewer to provide water closets and at three schools the sanitary accommodation provided is of the insanitary privy vault type.

Where pail closets are in use it is usual for the buckets to be emptied only at weekly intervals by which time the contents are offensive. More frequent emptying is necessary, especially in schools, the management of which should be an example to the scholars.

## SECTION D

### Housing

New houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ..	117
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority .. ..	64
(2) By other bodies or persons .. ..	0
(c) Proposed under the Housing Acts .. ..	60

#### *1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	458
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. ..	1,626



2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. .	508
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	526
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	116
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	160

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.. .. .	24
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. .. .	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	40
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.. .. .	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.. .. .	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	14
(3) Undertakings accepted by Council at final proceedings under section 11 .. .. .	29

(d) Proceeding under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .	Nil
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4. *Housing Act, 1936 (Part III)—Clearance, etc.*

(1) Clearance Area Declarations made by Council .. .. .	13
(2) Clearance Orders submitted and waiting confirmation by Minister .. .. .	0
(3) Clearance Orders rejected by Minister .. .. .	3
(4) Clearance Orders confirmed by Minister .. .. .	24

5. *Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV)—Overcrowding :—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	10
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	10
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	61
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year .. .. .	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	13
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.. .. .	121
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	

Only 10 overcrowded families now remain and these will be abated when the 60 proposed houses are built.

6. *Particulars relating specially to Agricultural Population. Action under Housing Act, 1936.*

(i) Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population to relieve overcrowding and subject to Ministry and County Council grants under Sections 108 and 115 (3) .. .. .	7
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(ii) Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population, exclusive of those for the relief of overcrowding and subject to grant from County Council under Section 115 (2) ..	4
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Action under Housing of the Rural Workers Acts, 1926 and 1931 :—

(i) Number of houses or other buildings dealt with by repair or conversion .. .. .	5
(ii) Number of reconditioned dwelling-houses provided as a result of above action .. .. .	5

A great effort was made to complete the slum clearance programme during the year. Up to the end of 1938 the Council had the choice of two subsidies and it was of considerable financial advantage to do the rehousing of displaced persons if possible in 1938.

Before the end of the year practically the whole of the unfit houses had been either considered by the Council at formal proceedings under the Housing Act or the subject of a public enquiry in a clearance area.

130 houses were dealt with in this manner and in 29 cases the Council were able to accept undertakings that either the houses would not be used again for human habitation or substantial schemes of reconditioning would be carried out.

Three clearance orders were rejected by the Minister. One of these dealt with a group of houses acquired by the Crown subsequent to the Council's action and a voluntary agreement for demolition was made. In the remaining two cases the Council were able to agree to schemes of reconditioning submitted at the Inquiry.

The 27 clearance areas were comprised of 89 houses.

Now that action in connection with houses falling in the category of totally unfit is complete it remains to deal with a very large number of houses requiring repair. Preliminary action has already been taken in many of these cases by the service of informal notices specifying the works required. If it is necessary to take formal action, the Council may decide in some instances, where the work cannot be carried out at reasonable expense, to proceed under the demolition section rather than the repair section of the Housing Act.

There are 255 Council houses in the district and this represents 5 per cent of the total inhabited houses.

## SECTION E

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### (a) Milk Supply

(i) Number of dairies, cowsheds and milk shops inspected ..	291
(ii) Number of such inspections .. .. .	345



Eight samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Fifteen notices were issued giving the list of works necessary to bring the cowsheds up to standard. At the end of the year 13 of these notices had been complied with.

### (b) Meat and other Foods

There are six slaughter houses in the area and 285 visits were made by the Inspectors during or shortly after slaughter for the purposes of meat inspection.

It will be seen from the accompanying table that practically every carcase was inspected.

The percentage of unsound meat was very small and is due to the high grade of animal that is slaughtered in this district. The animals are almost invariably bred and reared locally.

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	99	164	40	1,031	251
Number Inspected .. .. .	98	156	40	930	231
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcases condemned ..	Nil.	1	1	Nil.	2
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned .. ..	2	4	Nil.	6	5
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .. ..	2.04	3.2	0.5	0.64	3.03
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	2	3	Nil.	Nil.	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	2.04	2.0	Nil.	Nil.	2.6

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933**

There are 17 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

### (c) Nutrition

A number of meetings in connection with the National Health Campaign were held. Films were shown and talks given by medical



officers of the County and District Council. The main object of the meetings was to bring home to the public the importance of adequate nutrition.

## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

A scheme for immunizing children between the ages of one and eight years against diphtheria was inaugurated during the year. The success of the scheme was largely due to the enthusiastic co-operation of the school teachers.

244 children were treated including a considerable number below school age.

The injections were given by the child's usual family doctor. It was left to the doctors' discretion whether one or two injections of alum precipitated toxoid was used.

Those children who have been immunised against diphtheria not only have individual protection against the disease but as a group form a barrier to the spread of an epidemic.

The district continued to enjoy its comparative immunity from all forms of infectious diseases. The notification rate per 1,000 of the population for scarlet fever was only 1.20 as compared with a rate of 2.41 for the country as a whole. The rate for diphtheria was 0.73 compared with 1.58.

In accordance with the modern practice scarlet fever cases were treated at home if possible, but in a number of instances the household was associated with milk production which necessitated the patients' removal.

All the diphtheria cases were sent to hospital and this course is most desirable since skilled nursing is essential in treating this disease.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1938.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox .. .. .	Nil	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever.. .. .	18	15	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	10	10	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	Nil.	—	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	Nil.	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	1	0
Pneumonia .. .. .	4		5
Other diseases generally notifiable:—			
Erysipelas .. .. .	7		0
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	1	1	0
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease) .. .. .	0	0	0

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..
5 .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 .. ..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1
25 .. ..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
45 .. ..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
55 .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total .. ..	8	4	2	1	2	3	2	3

There were four cases of persons dying from tuberculosis who had not been notified as suffering from the disease during their life time. Each of these cases were investigated as to the reason for non-notification. Early notification and hence early treatment is essential if a good recovery rate is to be obtained.



